

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, November 8, 2011

Archie Cole Middle School Cafetorium

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:00p.m. Executive Session, Vote to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under General Laws of Rhode Island 42-46-5 (a) (2) Legal review and contract renewal, Teacher negotiations, and Collective Bargaining-Paraprofessional Contract

Those in attendance were: Dr. Deidre Gifford, Chair; Mr. Robert Durant, Vice-Chair; Mr. David Green; Mr. Jack Sommer, and Mrs. Susan Records (arrived at 6:32p.m.). Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters and Mr. Paul Martin were absent. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Paula Dillon, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration; and Attorney Matthew Oliverio were also present.

7:10p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Call to order

The regular session of the East Greenwich School Committee was called to order in the Cafetorium of the Archie Cole Middle School at 7:10 p.m. by Chair Dr. Deidre Gifford.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

III. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

IV. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular and Executive for 10/18/11

On a motion by Mrs. Records, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the Committee voted unanimously (4-0 with Mr. Durant abstaining) to approve the minutes of the Regular and Executive Session for 10/18/11. Dr. Gifford asked that page 2 of the Regular Minutes reflect 1.0 FTE instead of .1 FTE.

IV. Superintendent's Report

The second round of interviews for the Director of Technology has taken place. The search has been narrowed to two candidates and a recommendation will be presented to the School Committee at an upcoming meeting. A representative team visited Burlington High School to look at their instructional practices, curriculum development, and 1:1 I-Pad program. The Burlington visit is only for informational purposes at this point. The team will debrief to discuss their visit. A meeting of the Task Force to study world languages is being arranged. The major demolition has been completed in the EGHS library. The contractor has mobilized on site and has installed temporary protection measures. Bids for library furnishings, shelving, and book detection have been received and successful vendors notified. Mr. Romeo from SBS told the Committee the EGHS library renovation is on schedule. The district is receiving positive

feedback on the new school website.

V. School Committee Concerns

Mr. Durant was approached by a parent who asked if the November professional development day (secondary level) could be rescheduled to the day after Halloween. Dr. Mercurio is happy to review the date, but noted this date is also designated for parent conferences at the elementary level.

VI. Action Items

a. Appointments

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve appointments #1-8. Mr. Green was unavailable for the vote. Appointments #4-8 were approved pending completion of necessary certification. These appointments will be revisited at the December 6, 2011 meeting.

- 1. Frenchtown School Secretary- Lisa Kehoe**
- 2. Frenchtown Building Paraprofessional-Maria Avedesian**
- 3. Cole Student Council Co-Advisor- Brendon Levesque**
- 4. Cole Field Hockey Intramural Advisor- Lisa Schambers**
- 5. Cole Girls' Basketball-Jason Martin**
- 6. Cole Boys' Basketball-Joe Szymkowicz**
- 7. EGHS Head Coach Boys' Hockey-Len Kiernan**
- 8. EGHS Assistant Coach Boys' Hockey-Sean Fahey**

b. Resignation

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 4-0 to accept the resignation of Christine Shaw, EGHS Advisor of Model Legislature. Mr. Green was unavailable for

the vote.

c. Home School- Grade 8 and Grade 12

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the home school request.

d. Approval of Finance Committee Recommendations

Newly elected chairperson June Fischer reviewed the Finance Committee carryover recommendations from 2011 and discussed the new recommendations for 2012. The Committee discussed the 2011 recommendation #6-Fixed Assets, which still has not been instituted and also discussed Recommendation #8-Facility Rentals and discussed the possibility of using a credit card portal to make reservations and collect payment. Dr. Gifford discussed the division of Finance Committee recommendations and School Committee policy. She noted that some recommendations need to be more generic. The School Committee will rank the recommendations in priority order and also note any suggestions for language revisions. The rankings will be discussed at the next meeting.

e. District Grade Configuration Committee Charge

The School Committee revised the charge membership to “no more than 49% of faculty and/or staff members from an affiliated institution” and also added one member of the LAC (Local Advisory Committee). The presentation to the School Committee date was changed to “prior to the February break.” On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the Charge to study the grade configurations at Meadowbrook, Frenchtown, Hanaford, and Eldredge.

f. Senior Project Exhibition- Request for Cole faculty

Joanne Gilden, Senior Project Coordinator and Karen Izzo, EGHS teacher discussed the need for Cole faculty to serve as judges for the Senior Project Exhibition. Approximately 180 judges are needed and if the high school and Cole teachers judge, there is still a need for 40 additional judges. Mr. Durant made a motion to approve the request and it was seconded by Mrs. Records. There was a lengthy discussion by the Committee, Mrs. Gilden, and Mrs. Izzo regarding the pros and cons of Cole faculty judging the Senior Project. Concerns were raised regarding the early release and loss of class time for Cole students. Various options for judging were also discussed. Dr. Mercurio will work with the Senior Project Coordinator to brainstorm additional options. Dr. Gifford asked Mr. Durant if he wished to withdraw his motion until additional options are reviewed at a later time. Mr. Durant stated he did not want to withdraw his motion. On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mrs. Records, the Committee voted 3-2 (Dr. Gifford and Mr. Green voted against the request) to approve the request for Cole faculty to participate in the April 25, 2012 Senior Project Exhibition day and the half day release for Cole students.

g. First Read of Revised Policies

The following policies received a first read and will receive a second read/adoption at the next School Committee meeting. Mrs. Dillon asked that Policy #2180 include “where the child sleeps 60% of the time.”

1. Policy #2120 Communication of Emergency Incidents to the

School Committee

2. Policy #2125 Inclement Weather

3. Policy #2130 School Safety, Emergency, and Crisis Response Plan

4. Policy #2145 School Calendar, School Holiday, and Days of Observance

5. Policy #2150 School Day: Elementary and Secondary

6. Policy #2180 Student Residency

7. Policy #2196 Field Trips

8. Policy #2198 Open House

h. Approval to delete Policy #2197-Field Trips-Accommodations

This policy received a first read and will receive a second read/deletion at the next School Committee meeting.

i. School Committee Resolution-Pension Reform

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the School Committee Resolution for Pension Reform.

j. Fields' MOU

The proposed MOU was given to the Committee. Dr. Gifford would like clarification on costs (town and school), what is considered “inside the fence”, and the Athletic Director and Fields' Committee's role in the MOU and their impression of the MOU before the School Committee signs off on the document. Dr. Mercurio stated he may not have information from the Fields' Committee until December. A cover letter will be drafted by the town and school to clarify the MOU and will be presented at the next meeting.

k. ESCO Lighting Change Update

Mr. Trombley and Mr. Fare of Schneider Electric discussed two lighting proposals for the high school. The main difference in the proposals is the inclusion of LED lamps (proposal ECM1) in the hallways which distributes the light differently. No action was needed at this time.

l. Girls' Co-Op Hockey Pilot Approval (2011-2012)

Mr. Cobain discussed the possibility of East Greenwich joining the Cranston East and West Girls' Hockey Co-Op. The only cost for this season would be uniforms. Parents and players were told the district does not have funds in the budget for this year. Funds would need to come from fundraisers, donations, or individual families. Also, the girls and their families would be responsible for transportation to and from Cranston. A waiver is also needed if East Greenwich joins Cranston due to East Greenwich's lower enrollment. Mr. Cobain will verify the certifications for coaching. Mr. Green asked about insurance and Mrs. Crawford stated the students are covered as long as the activity is sanctioned by the School Committee. If approved, this program is a pilot program, and if continued in the future, it may have associated costs with membership in the Co-Op (league fees, ice time, coaching salaries, etc.) On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the Girls' Co-Op Hockey Pilot for the 2011-12 school year. The Cranston School Committee and the PCOA still need to approve the addition of EGHS to the existing Co-Op at Cranston West and Cranston East.

VII. Discussion Items

a. Cole outdoor lighting issue

Mr. Durant has received phone calls from community members regarding the outdoor lights remaining on at Cole. Mr. Romeo from SBS stated there has been a problem with the lights since the tropical storm. Griffin and Gilbane have been investigating the problem and have spent about seven days trying to find out the problem. The problem was thought to be a warranty item, but now it appears the problem is an outside control issue. Griffin plans to report their findings in a report by the end of next week. The information will be given to SMMA for review and to our insurance company. There may be a claim if it is a design or installation issue. Mr. Romeo anticipates resolving the problem by the end of the month.

The Committee questioned who will pay if it is not a design or installation issue.

b. Finance Committee process and budget meeting dates

Dr. Gifford asked if the budget workshops could be reduced this year since all administrators are familiar with the process. Mr. Durant added that administrators' should be defending their budgets and the process should be more streamlined this year.

c. Update from Student Code of Conduct Committee

This item was tabled because the Student Code of Conduct Committee has not received additional bullying information from the state.

d. Teacher Attendance – Mr. Martin

This item was tabled due to Mr. Martin's absence.

VIII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mr. Durant, the Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn at 10:00 p.m.

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO
SECRETARY**